II. Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for exchanging automotive information between at least two automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, comprising:

~~a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;~~

a translation system for translation a transaction element received from a first trading partner from a proprietary schema of the first trading partner into a universal schema and from the universal schema into a proprietary schema of a second trading partner; wherein translation of the transaction element comprises translating a data format and an application format of the transaction element;

a routing system for routing the transaction element ~~elements~~ ~~between~~ from the first trading partner to the second trading partner in a communication protocol of the second trading partner ~~partners~~; and

a transaction management system for ~~managing~~ tracking a status of the transaction element ~~elements~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, further comprising a mapping system for mapping the ~~a~~ transaction element, wherein the mapping system includes a system for determining: a source of the transaction element, an application to which the transaction element is regarding, and a recipient to which the transaction element should be routed.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, further comprising:

a data management system for providing localized data to the trading partners;

a security system for controlling access to the automotive information exchange system; ~~and~~

an administrative system for managing the automotive information exchange system; and

a partner directory system for managing a partner directory of trading partners, wherein the partner directory identifies trading partners and their corresponding locations, transaction element schemas, communication protocols.

5. (Currently Amended) The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, wherein the a first trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending the a transaction element to the automotive information exchange system~~, and wherein the routing system routes the transaction element to a second trading partner~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The automotive information exchange system of claim 5, wherein the second trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending a response transaction element to the automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the response element to the first trading partner in a protocol of the first trading partner.

7. (Currently Amended) The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the first and second trading partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, an [a] automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive

lending provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance

provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

8. (Original) The automotive information exchange system of claim 7, wherein the transaction

element and the response transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from

the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive

insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty, and credit

reporting.

9. (Original) The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the transaction

element and the response transaction element contain transaction data pertaining to a

predetermined automotive application.

10. (Currently Amended) The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the

automotive information exchange system ~~translates the transaction element from a proprietary~~

~~schema of the first trading partner to the universal schema and then to a proprietary schema of~~

~~the second trading partner, and wherein the automotive information exchange system~~ translates

the response transaction element from the proprietary schema of the second trading partner to the

universal schema and then to the proprietary schema of the first trading partner.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for exchanging automotive information between at least two

automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, comprising the steps of:

~~sending~~ receiving a transaction element from a first automotive trading partner <u>on</u> ~~to~~ an

automotive information exchange system, wherein the transaction element relates to an

automotive application;

<u>translating the transaction element from a proprietary schema of the first trading partner</u>

<u>into a universal schema and from the universal schema into a proprietary schema of the second</u>

<u>trading partner, wherein translation of the transaction element includes translating a data format</u>

<u>and an application format of the transaction element;</u>

routing the transaction element to a second automotive trading partner;

sending a response transaction element from the second automotive trading partner to the

automotive information exchange system; and

routing the response transaction element to the first automotive trading partner.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

mapping the transaction element and the response transaction element with a mapping

system, <u>wherein the mapping comprises identifying the first trading partner, the second trading</u>

<u>partner and an application to which the transaction element corresponds;</u>

managing the transaction element and the response transaction element with a transaction

management system, <u>wherein the managing step comprises tracking a status of the transaction</u>

<u>element and the response transaction element;</u> and

securing the automotive information exchange system with a security system.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 13, further comprising translating the response transaction element from the second proprietary schema to the universal schema and then from the universal schema to the first proprietary schema.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second automotive trading partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, an [a] automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the transaction element and the response transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty, and credit reporting.

18. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable media for exchanging automotive information between at least two automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, which when executed, comprises:

a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;

a translation system for translation a transaction element received from a first trading partner from a proprietary schema of the first trading partner into a universal schema and from the universal schema into a proprietary schema of a second trading partner; wherein translation of the transaction element comprises translating a data format and an application format of the transaction element;

a routing system for routing the transaction element ~~elements between~~ from the first trading partner to the second trading partner in a communication protocol of the second trading partner ~~partners~~; and

a transaction management system for ~~managing~~ tracking a status of the transaction element ~~elements~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 18, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the first trading partner ~~that~~ includes a mechanism for sending the ~~a~~ transaction element to the automotive information exchange system~~, and wherein the routing system routes the transaction element to~~ the ~~a second trading partner~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 18 ~~19~~, wherein the second trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending a response transaction element to the automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the response element to the first trading partner in a communication protocol of the first trading partner.

21. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 20, wherein the first and second trading partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, an [a] automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

22. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 20 21, wherein the transaction element and the response transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty, and credit reporting.

23. (Original) The program product of claim 18, further comprising a mapping system for mapping a transaction element, wherein the mapping system includes a system for determining: a source of the transaction element, an application to which the transaction element is regarding, and a recipient to which the transaction element should be routed.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 18 24, further comprising:

a data management system for providing localized data to the trading partners;

a security system for controlling access to the automotive information exchange system;

and

an administrative system for managing the automotive information exchange system; and

a partner directory system for managing a partner directory of trading partners, wherein

the partner directory identifies trading partners and their corresponding locations, transaction

element schemas, communication protocols.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer system for exchanging automotive information between at

least two automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, comprising:

a processor;

a computer system memory;

an interface; and

a software product stored on the computer system memory and executable by the

processor, wherein the software product comprises:

a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;

a translation system for translation a transaction element received from a first

trading partner from a proprietary schema of the first trading partner into a universal schema and

from the universal schema into a proprietary schema of a second trading partner; wherein

translation of the transaction element comprises translating a data format and an application

format of the transaction element;

a routing system for routing the transaction element elements between from the

first trading partner to the second trading partner in a communication protocol of the second

trading partner partners; and

a transaction management system for managing tracking a status of the

transaction element elements.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, ~~further comprising a first trading partner that~~ wherein the first trading partner includes a mechanism for sending a transaction element to the automotive information exchange system~~, and wherein the routing system routes the transaction element to a second trading partner~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein the second trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending a response transaction element to the automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the response element to the first trading partner <u>in a communication protocol of the first trading partner</u>.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein the first and second trading partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, <u>an</u> [a] automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim <u>28</u> ~~29~~, wherein the transaction element and the response transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty, and credit reporting.

31. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the software product further comprises:

       a data management system for providing localized data to the trading partners;

a security system for controlling access to the automotive information exchange system; and

an administrative system for managing the automotive information exchange system; and

a partner directory system for managing a partner directory of trading partners, wherein the partner directory identifies trading partners and their corresponding locations, transaction element schemas, communication protocols.